Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: 16:748-19, AA-851.

Name: A Control of Contr

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Eligibility RecommendedX Eligibility Not Recommended			
Criteria: A B C C	O Considerations:ABCDEFGNone		
Comments:			
Reviewer, OPS:_Anne E. Bruder	Date:3 April 2001		
Reviewer, NR Program:Peter E. Kur	tze Date:3 April 2001		

Chrisi

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/ MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT No. PG 74B-1 & AA-851

SHA Bridge No. P-599	Bridge name	Governor's Bridge Ro	oad over Patuxent River or
Governor's Bridge			
LOCATION:			
Street/Road name and number	[facility carried] Gov	vernor's Bridge Road	
Street Road hame and humber	[lacinity carried]	vernor s bridge Road	······
City/town Bowie			Vicinity X
County Prince George's			
This bridge projects over: Road	d Railway	Water X La	and
Ownership: State	County X Muni	cipalO	ther
HISTORIC STATUS:			
Is bridge located within a design	nated historic district?	Yes N	o <u>X</u>
National Register-listed	district Natio	nal Register-determi	ned-eligible district
Locally-designated distr	rictOthe	r	
Name of district		<u> </u>	
BRIDGE TYPE:			
Timber Bridge:			
	Truss -Covered	Trestle Ti	mber-And-Concrete
Deam Dridge	Truss -covered	11cstic 11	inder-And-Concrete
Stone Arch Bridge			
Metal Truss Bridge X			
Movable Bridge:			
Swing Bas	scule Single Leaf	Bascule Multipl	e Leaf
Vertical Lift Ref	tractile	Pontoon	<u> </u>
Metal Girder:			
Rolled Girder		crete Encased	
Plate Girder	Plate Girder Conc	rete Encased	<u> </u>
Metal Suspension			
Metal Arch			
Metal Cantilever			
Concrete:			
	Concrete Slab	Concrete Beam	Rigid Frame
Other Type Name _			

PG: 74B-1 + AA-851

DESCRIPTION:

Describe Setting:

Bridge P-599 is designed to carry one lane of traffic on Governor's Bridge Road over the Patuxent River, connecting Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County. Governor's Bridge Road runs in a generally west-east direction at this location and the Patuxent River flows north to south. The bridge is situated just south of Bowie in Prince George's County, Maryland.

The site of the bridge has been used as a crossing since the mid-eighteenth century. The name is believed to date from that period, when Governor Ogle utilized a predecessor bridge to travel from his Belair estate across the Patuxent to Annapolis. It is not known how many bridges have spanned the Patuxent at this point. One is known to have been in place in 1878, according to G.M. Hopkins' Atlas of Prince George's County of that year.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

This structure a single-span, steel, Pratt through-truss bridge measuring 115' in length with 13'-7" in clear roadway width. Each of its six panels measures 19'-2". The top chords, bottom chords, and end posts are back to back channels with top cover plates. The first and last vertical members are angle shaped. All of the other vertical members are I-shaped. All diagonal members are angle shapes. The bearings of the bridge at the east end are secured with pinned connections. The trusses on each side have a steel lattice safety railing. The bridge is set upon a substructure of coursed stone and concrete abutments.

Discuss Major Alterations:

The original timber deck has been replaced by an open grate steel deck. When the bridge was surveyed in 1995, it was closed to traffic. However, it has since been re-opened, although no significant alterations are evident.

HISTORY:

WHEN was bridge built (actual d	late or date range)	c.1907-1912	
This date is: Actual	Estimated X		
Source of date: Plaque	Design plans	County bridge fi	les/inspection form
Other (specify) <u>Survey forms on f</u>	ile at the Maryland I	listorical Trust give a	date range for construction of
about 1907 to 1912			
WHY was bridge built? To provi to meet local and regional transport, was a major route to Annapolis.	ation needs. Prior to	the establishment of M	
WHO was the designer			
WHO was the builder		_	
WHY was bridge altered? [chec	k N/A X_if not	applicable]	
Was bridge built as part of orgai	nized bridge-buildin	g campaign? Yes	No X

PG: 746-1 + AA- 851

SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:

This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with: A - Events X B- Person
C- Engineering/architectural character X
Was bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history? No_ Yes X If yes, what event?
This bridge was one of a large number of metal truss bridges erected in Maryland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These bridges, which were stronger and more reliable than the majority of their predecessors, were part of a major advance in bridge technology in Maryland and throughout the nation in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.
When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth & development of the area? No Yes \underline{X}
Because of their solidity, metal truss bridges such as the Governor's Bridge Road bridge provided reliable crossings, largely free from the dangers of floods and other disasters that regularly destroyed many of their predecessors. By assuring travelers that Governor's Bridge Road could be safely and reliably passed throughout the year, this bridge promoted small-scale residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial development along the road and other thoroughfares that fed into it. It also facilitated traffic to and from the capital to Prince George's County. Though their impacts were generally localized, bridges such as this, taken en masse, were an important factor in the development of rural areas throughout the state.
Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation? No X Yes Would the bridge add toor detract from historic & visual character of the possible district?
Is the bridge a significant example of its type? No Yes X
Between 1840 and the Civil War, under the impetus of a rapidly expanding railroad system, the majority of early American metal truss bridge forms were patented and introduced. In Maryland, the earliest metal truss bridges carried rail lines, which required their great strength and reliability. From the War through the end of the century, metal truss technology was improved, steel began to replace iron, and the use of trusses was expanded to carry roads as well as rail lines.
Numerous metal truss bridges were erected in Baltimore, the original hub of the metal truss in the state, from the 1850s through the 1880s. From Baltimore, the use of the metal truss spread out to other parts of the

Numerous metal truss bridges were erected in Baltimore, the original hub of the metal truss in the state, from the 1850s through the 1880s. From Baltimore, the use of the metal truss spread out to other parts of the state, particularly the Piedmont and Appalachian Plateau. Many bridge and iron works were established in the eastern United States to design and fabricate truss members, which were then shipped to sites in Maryland and elsewhere to be erected. More than 15 different bridge companies located in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, and Indiana are known to have shipped metal truss bridges to sites throughout Maryland. Bridges were first fabricated in Maryland, and shipped to sites within the state and beyond, by the companies of seminal bridge designer Wendel Bollman.

Early in the twentieth century, concrete bridges began to compete with metal truss bridges throughout the state at small to moderate crossings. With the development of uniform standards for concrete bridges by the State Roads Commission in the 1910s, the construction of smaller metal truss bridges significantly declined throughout the state. The metal truss still remained the bridge of choice for large crossings, however. In the 1920s, heavier members began to be used at these bridges. Reflecting even heavier load requirements and increased lengths, metal truss bridges erected in the state in the 1930s and 1940s were heavy and solid, rather than light and delicate like their late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century predecessors.

PG: 74B-1 + AA-851

Numerous Pratt truss bridges were erected throughout the country between 1844, when the type was patented by Thomas and Caleb Pratt, and the early twentieth century. The Pratt has diagonals extended across one panel in tension and verticals in compression, except for hip verticals immediately adjacent to the inclined end posts of the bridge. The large majority of Maryland's surviving metal truss bridges are Pratts, built as through or pony trusses either riveted or pin-connected.

This bridge was erected during one of the three key periods (1840-1860, 1860-1900, and 1900-1960) of bridge construction in Maryland. Built between about 1907 and 1912, it falls within the period 1900-1960. During this era, metal truss highway bridges became increasingly standardized. Also during this period, smaller and moderate length trusses were gradually replaced by reinforced concrete structures, and the modern metal girder bridge, which could easily be widened, replaced the metal truss bridge at all but the largest approaches and crossings. Built early in the century, it is characterized by relatively delicate members, rather the heavy solid members that characterize its successors.

Does bridge retain integrity [in terms of National Register] of important elements described in Context Addendum? No Yes _X_ It retains its integrity of its character-defining elements.
Is bridge a significant example of work of manufacturer, designer and/or engineer? NoYes This bridge has been surveyed at least four times, but neither a manufacturer, designer, nor engineer has been identified.
Should bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made? No X Yes
lt is believed that no further evaluation is necessary to determine the eligibility of this bridge for listing in the

It is believed that no further evaluation is necessary to determine the eligibility of this bridge for listing in the National Register. However, additional research, which could be conducted as part of any future National Register nomination prepared for the bridge, might provide further information about its history and environs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bridge inspection reports and files of the Prince George's County engineer's office.

County survey files of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Prince George's County. 1878.

Jackson, Donald H. Great American Bridges and Dams. Washington, D.C: The Preservation Press, 1968

P.A.C. Spero & Company. *Historic Bridges in Maryland: Historic Context Report*. Prepared for the Maryland State Highway Administration, September, 1994.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. *Historic Highway Bridges in Pennsylvania*. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1986.

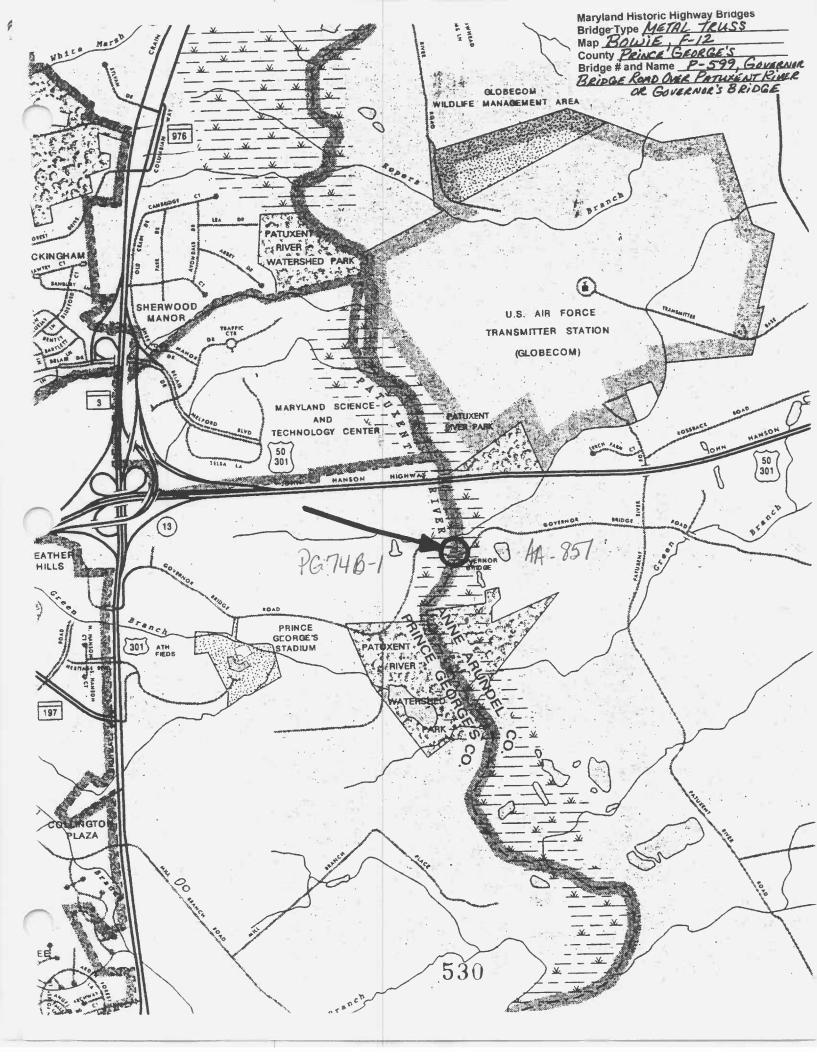
State inventory form AA-851 for Anne Arundel County

State inventory form 74B-1 for Prince George's County

PG:74B-1 + AA-857

SURVEYOR/SURVEY INFORMATION:

Name of surveyor Walter King/Marvin Brown
Organization/Address GREINER, INC., 2219 York Road, Suite 200, Timonium, Maryland 21093-3111
Phone number 410-561-0100 FAX number 410-561-1150
revised by P.A.C. Spero & Company, August 1998





Inventory # PG 74B1 & AA - 851
PATUXENT RIVER
Name PATUXENT KIVER
County/State PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY/MD
Name of Photographer WALLY KING
Date $\sqrt{95}$
Location of Negative SHA
Description WEST APPROACH LOOKING EAST
Number 6 of 24

Than Epole Olmooning



Inventory # PG 74B-1 * AA-851
0599-GOVERNUR BRIDGE RUAD ONEK
Name PATUXENT RIVER
County/State PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY/MD
Name of Photographer WALLY KING
Date 1 95
Location of Negative SHA
Description SOUTH ELEVATION
Number 7 of 24



Inventory # <u>PG 748-1</u> * AA-85)
PSAG-GOVERNUR BRITZE RUAD OVER Name PATUX-ENT RIVER
County/State PRINCE GEORGIES COUNTY/MD
Name of Photographer WALLY KING
Date
Location of Negative SHA
Description EAST APPROACH LOOKING WEST
Number 8 of \$4
Number of



Inventory # PG74 B-1 * AA-851
pggg- GOVERNOR BRIDGE RUAD OVER
Name PATUXENT RIVER
County/State PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY/MO
Name of Photographer WALLY KING
Date 195
,
Location of Negative
Description NURTH ELEVATION
Description North ELEVATION
A
Number 9 of 34

Survey No. 74B-1 ' FG-Magi No. 1701923717

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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street & number	. Governor's Br	idge Road & Patuxent I	River , .	一方・方行()また not for publication
city, town	Bowie	χ vicinity of	congressional district	,
state Mary	land	county	Prince Geo	rge's
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s)X structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered X not applicable	Status _X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted _X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
name St	tate Roads Commiss	ion	telephone r	10.:
city, town		state	and zip code	
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7. Description

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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Governor's Bridge carries the Governor's Bridge Road over the

The Governor's Bridge carries the Governor's Bridge Road over the Patuxent River, connecting Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. It is a steel, single-span, Pratt through truss bridge, measuring approximately 105-1/2 feet in length and 13 feet 7 inches in width. It is supported by two poured concrete abutments and has a wire mesh deck. It was fabricated approximately 75 years ago. The fabricator is unknown.

8. Sig	nificance		Survey No. 74B-	
prehistori 1400–149 1500–159 1600–169 1700–179 1800–189 X 1900–	9 archeology-historic 9 agriculture 9 architecture 9 art 9 commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen industry	law literature military music	science sculpture social humanitarian theater X transportation
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Prepare bot	th a summary paragraph o	of significance and	a general statement o	of history and

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Governor's Bridge is significant for being one of three surviving early truss bridges in the County. This site is also important because it has been used as a crossing of the Patuxent since colonial days. Early maps indicate that a bridge (referred to as the "Patuxent Bridge" in most cases), rather than a ferry, was used to cross the river. The name, "Governor's Bridge," is derived from the use of this crossing by several governors who lived in nearby "Belair."

The other two truss bridges are the late 19th century Queen Anne Bridge which crosses the Patuxent at Queen Anne, and the VanWagner Road Bridge which crosses the B&O Railroad main line near Upper Marlboro. The Queen Anne Bridge is no longer in use for traffic. One other later, C. 1930s, truss bridge is located on Leland Road. Its condition has been determined as unsafe and it will probably be removed. A similar bridge, the McHenry Road Bridge, of the same vintage, was already removed due to poor condition.³

Footnotes

- 1 Edward C. Papenfuse and Joseph M. Coale III, Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908, Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.
- 2 Michael F. Dwyer, Governor's Bridge Historic Sites Survey Form, 1974.
- 3 Interview with Bill Miller, Engineering Department, Prince George's County.

See Footnotes

10. Geographical Data	
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

d Michael F. Gayan, Jonaflar's 3rd. 50 Hotton's Store Service Force, 1984.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

1d 2a, e

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #	74B-1	Building Date _	c.1 905 ///
Building Name	Governor's Bridge		
Location Go	vernor's Bridge Road and	d Patuxent River, Bowie, Md.	
Open to Publi	c: X Yes No	Occupied: X Yes No Use Tran	is.

The Governor's Bridge carries the Governor's Bridge Road over the Patuxent River, connecting Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. It is a steel, single-span, Pratt through truss bridge, measuring approximately 105-1/2 feet in length and 13 feet 7 inches in width. It is supported by two poured concrete abutments and has a wire mesh deck. It was fabricated approximately 75 years ago. The fabricator is unknown.

The Governor's Bridge is significant for being one of three surviving early truss bridges in the County. This site is also important because it has been used as a crossing of the Patuxent since colonial days. Early maps indicate that a bridge (referred to as the "Patuxent Bridge" in most cases), rather than a ferry, was used to cross the river. The name, "Governor's Bridge," is derived from the use of this crossing by several governors who lived in nearby "Belair."

public/trans./occ./fair

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC				
Governor	's Bridge			
AND/OR COMMON				
LOCATION		v		
STREET & NUMBER				
Governo	r's Bridge Rd. & P	atuxent River		
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	CT
Bowie		VICINITY OF	COUNTY	
state Maryland	nd		Prince Geo	orge's
CLASSIFIC				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	LPUBLIC LPUBLIC	'_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	YES RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	_ SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
	BEING CONSIDERED	_NO	MILITARY	OTHER
OWNER OF			Telephone #:	
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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

SCELLENT GOOD __DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

__ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

_FAIR

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED _MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is an old Patuxent River crossing, that dates from Colonial times. The present span over the river is a rare, early-20th Century, steel truss bridge.

SIGNIFICANCE

1400-1499 1500-1599	ARCHEOLOGY HISTORICAGRICULTURE	CONSERVATION ECONOMICS	LAWLITERATURE	SCIENCESCULPTURE
1800-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<u>√</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY _INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was one of the most heavily-travelled Patuxent River crossings since Colonial times. The name reportedly comes from the usage made by several governors of Maryland, who lived at nearby "Belair". This was the old road to Annapolis, the state's capital, that has since been replaced by Rte. 50.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECE	SSARY
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STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY
FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME / TITLE	
Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park	Historian
ORGANIZATION	DATE
M-NCPPC	9/27/74
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
8787 Georgia Ave.	589-1480
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Silver Spring	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

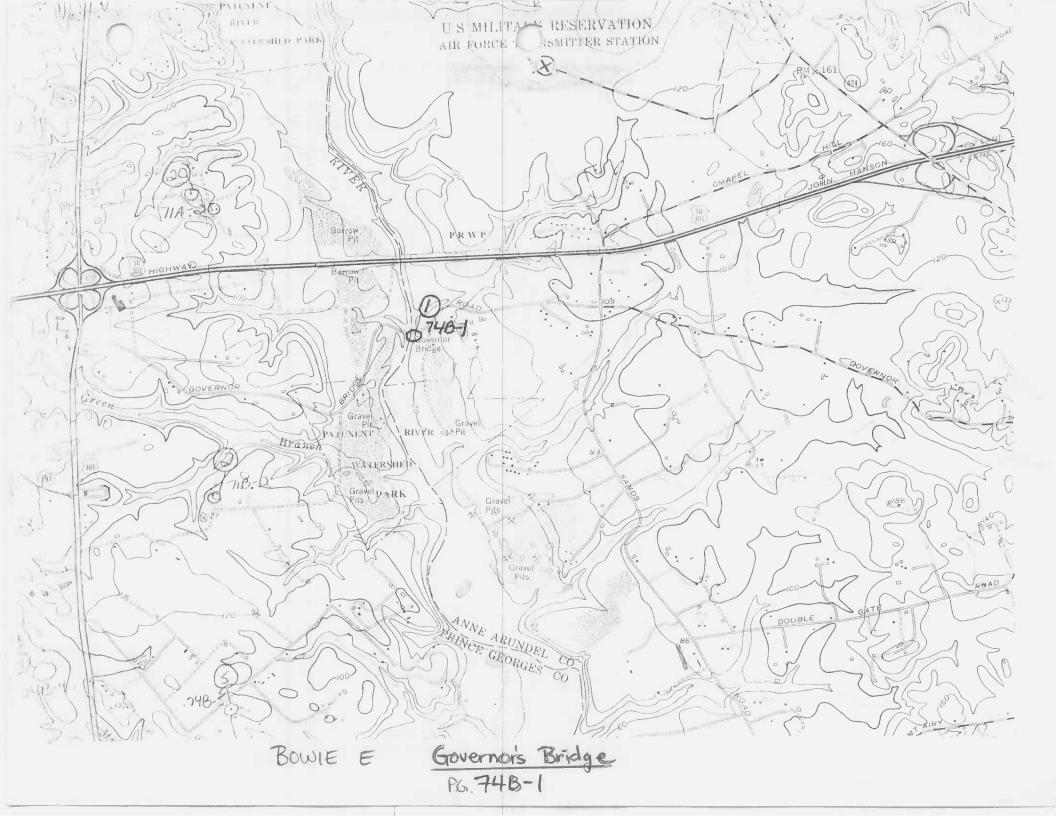
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438







P.G. #74B-1

Governor's Bridge
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
July 1984
Northeast approach
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G. #74B-1

Governor's Bridge
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
July 1984
View from Southwest
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



GOVERNOR'S BRIDGE NAME PG: 74B-1 LOCATION 11 " Rd AT PATUXENT RIVER BOWIE, Md. FACADE LOOKING E PHOTO TAKEN 9/27/74 M DWYER